THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Please sit down. The question is:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the "consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1998-99 for the purposes of Railways, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3 and the schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Re. Prasar Bharati Bill

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Minister, do you want to say something?

सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री (श्री प्रमोद महाजन) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, मैं व्यक्गित स्पष्टीकरण के लिए खड़ा हूं। सदन में आज प्रातःकाल विपक्ष के सम्मानित नेता और अन्य प्रमुख नेताओं ने ऐसी आपत्ति उठाई थी कि सदन के चलते हुए, सदन के बाहर मैने प्रसार-भारती के संबध में कोई महत्पूर्ण घोषणा करके सदन की एक तरह से अवमानना की थी। मैं सबसे पहले यह स्पष्ट कर देना चाहता हूं कि मंत्री पद के इस 18 दिन के कार्यकाल में मैनें संसद के बाहर कोई भी घोषणा नहीं की है। मैं किसी समाचार पत्र वाले को या किसी दूरचित्रवाणी वाले को व्यक्तिगत रूप से या सामूहिक रूप में कहीं भी नहीं मिला हूं। किसी प्रकार का मैने विशेष साक्षात्कार नहीं किया है। इसलिए प्रसार भारती क्या, मैनें मंत्रालय के संबंध में किसी भी विषय पर सार्वजनिक कोई बात नहीं की है। जैसा मैनें कहा मंत्री तो मैं 18 दिन का हूं, 12 वर्ष का सांसद हूं,संसद की परम्पराओं से मैं परिचित हूं, इसलिए सदन के चलते हुए कोई भी घोषणा बाहर करके मैं सदन की अवमानना करने की सोच भी नहीं सकता हूं, उसकी परम्पराओं का उल्लघंन भी मैं नहीं कर सकता हूं। लेकिन जब विपक्ष के नेता और अन्य नेताओं की स्पीच मैने पढ़ी तो मुझे लगा कि यह व्यक्तिगत स्पष्टीकरण देना जरूरी है। बाद में मैनें जांच की तो पता चला कि परसों मेरे मंत्रालय की परामर्शदात्री की एक बैठक हुई थी। हम सब यह जानते हैं कि परामर्शदात्री समिति की बैठक की बाहर कोई रिर्पोटिंग नहीं होती है और न ही उसकी कोई चर्चा होती है। लगता है एक-आध समाचार ने, मैने परामर्श दात्री समिति में ऐसा कहा, ऐसा अपने सूत्रों के आधार पर छापा है। उसमें किसी प्रकार की स्त्यता घोषणा की है। विपक्ष के नेता प्रणव बाबू ने भी कहा था, सबको आश्वस्त करना चाहता हूं कि सदन के चलते हुए किसी प्रकार की घोषणा ने मैनें की है न कहूंगा।

THE APPROPRIATION (NO. 4) BILL, 1998

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Madam, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1998-99, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

Madam, this Bill arises out of the Supplementary Appropriations charged on the Consolidated Fund of India and Demands voted by Lok Sabha. It is proposed to augment the sanctioned provisions by Rs. 14,449.96 crores. However, to the extent of Rs. 13,169.96 crores, the augmented provision is matched by savings of the concerned departments or by enhanced receipts recoveries. In addition, demand provison of Rs. 27 lakhs is being sought—Rs.

V-

lakh for each item of expenditure—for enabling reappropriation of savings in cases involving new service or new instrument of service. Hence the net match outgo involved in the proposals is only Rs. 1,279.73 crores. Madam, I move.

The question was proposed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): The allotted time for discussion of the Bill is two hours.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Madam, I rise to support the Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 1998.

Madam, as the hon. Finance Minister has himself just now mentioned. ..

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA (Madhya Pradesh): Madam, it is the maiden speech in this session. He is a new Member.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE}; He is not a new member.

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA; This time he is a new member. He should be given sufficient time to speak.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Madam, the hon. Minister himself has mentioned that the Supplementary Demands for this Appropriation Bill is amounting to Rs. 14,449.96 crores proposed and they have been able to save to the extent of Rs. 13,169.96 crores by savings of the concerned departments. Of course, the balance of Rs. 1,280 crores remains. Out of these Rs. 1,280 crores, Rs. 600 crores is for subsidy on indigenous fertilisers. This leads to a balance of Rs. 680 crores. I am not going into it, because most of the adjustments are routine adjustments. I would only refer to one item. It is Rs. 180 crores for unviable PSUs for VRS.

Why is this Rs. 180 crores extra required? There was some Budget for VRS earlier. This additional amount is required, because, probaly more workers are coming forward to accept the VRS scheme. If I go through the Supplementary Demands, I find that even in the case of the balance of Rs. 13,169.96 crores, there are a lot of payments, which will be made or adjusted against VRS only.

Now, I am not against making the VRS to the workers who are willing to retire voluntarily. I am seriously concerned about them. Is it the end of the story for these workers? Some of them will get a few lakhs of rupees. Some of them are 30 years old, 40 years old and even 50 years old. Those who are above 50 years, once they retire, their lives end. When the Finance Minister had planned for this, I wonder whether he had any consideration for these retiring workers so that they can be trained in different technical institute's in the country. I know about these technical institutes because I have been closely associated with them. They have not enough students. They do not have enough people to take that kind of training. They are really availabe. Can we motivate these workers who are retiring, through PSUs, to get some kind of training so that after retirement also they can have some kind of self-employment. If not, thousands of workers will come on the roads forseeking reemployment. They will have nothing to do. Obviously, they will take to crimes. I would request the hon. Finance Minister—hopefully when he presents the next Budget—to think over this aspect very seriously as to what they should do for these workers who are going to accept the VRS in a big way in various PSUs.

Madam, out of Rs. 13,169.96 crores, Rs. 11,050 crores will be transferred to the State Governments and the Union Territory Governments. This is only a routine adjustment. I would not like to elaborate on his. Madam, I wish the hon. Finance Minister had asked for additional grants for some kind of fresh productivity. But not a single copper, I repeat, not a single copper has been asked for any fresh productive activity.

During the last nine months, from 1st April, the Budget month for this, not a single copper has been asked. If that is so, what is the plan of the Government to improve the economy of the country. The funds allotted towards adjustments are either for the VRS or for conversion of loans into equities or for writing off of losses. This is not going to improve the economy of the country. All of us sitting here are definitely concerned for the future generation and for immediate generation. What is your economic planning for one year, two years and for next five years? This is where the role of budgeting comes into the picture.

It is not a simple question of accounting what is received, what is being paid and seeing whether it is being paid properly or not. That is being done by officers. But, at your level, Sir, we have 'to raise enough funds to employ them for more productive purposes for the development of the country. Did we really achieve this purpose after presenting the last Budget or by making Supplementary Demands for Grants? I will just mention a few figures as to the macro-economic growth profile.

Madam Vice-Chairperson, the GDP growth was seven per cent during the last three years. The average was seven per cent. The revised GDP growth in 1997-98 is at 5-1 per cent. I am very concerned that this year, the GDP growth may be at the level of three per cent. If this is the impact of the Budget, a very serious thought has to be given as to what is lacking. We cannot say that the Budget is good or the Budget is bad when it is presented. There were a lot of reactions at the time of Budget presentation. But, now, we have seen the results. Something has gone wrong somewhere. I request the hon. Minister, through you, Madam, to please look into *it.* How do we really increase the GDP Similarly, Madam, agriculture and related activities had a negative growth of 1.5 per cent in 1997-98 against the high growth of 7.9 percent in 1996-97. Again this year, it may be still worse. The hon. Minister can enlighten us because the figures are not readily available. But by the prevailing economic condition in the coduntry, I am very concerned that the agriculture growth may be on the negative side.

If we take the industrial growth, Madam, at one time, the industrial growth was as high as 30 per cent which came down to 22 per cent in 1997. And in 1998, when the year is ending, it is just 15 epr cent. Only God knows what is going to happen in 1999.If we have an industrial growth of four or five per cent next year, the country is doomed?

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : ऐसी बात नहीं हैं, बढ़ायेंगे, सब लोग मिल कर कोशिश करेंगे ।

श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया: हम लोग तो कर रहें हैं, आप भी करिए ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे) : गौतम जी, आप बोलना चाहेंगे तो आपका नाम लिख देंगे ताकि आपको भी बोलने का मौका मिल जाए ।

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Madam Vice-Chairperson, now I take the food production. It has stagnated around 193 million tonnes in 1998-99. We all know that not only the population is increasing despite our plans to see that the population does not increase, but also, for a better nutrition value, the people who are already there also need more. There demands have increased. If the production of foodgrains remains at 193 million tonnes

If the prices go up, we connot say, कि आसामानी प्राब्लम है, सुस्तानी प्रॉब्लम नहीं है । भगवान का भरोसा सब को हैं, मैडम लेकिन भगवान भी उन्हीं को सहायता करता है जो खुद भी अपने हाथ-पांव हिलाते हैं । मैं सरकार को कहना चाहता हूं कि वह अपने हाथ-पांव कुछ हिलाए । अब हम नॉन फूड ग्रेन प्रोडक्शन में जब जाएं तो आप देखेंगे ।

The rate of growth in respect of nonfood items like cotton, sugarcane and oilseeds is just three per cent. The most important factor for the development of economy is infrastrucutre. I have been propagating for many years even when

we bad our Government that the most important thing for development of an economy is infrastructure. No subsidy should be given. Subsidies have been given to put up industries in 'No Indsutry Zone' or in 'No Industry District'. You go to the hills, you go there and you will get a subsidy of Rs. 25 lakhs or Rs. 30 lakhs and you put up an industry of Rs. 25 crpres. No industrialist will go to such places simply because there is some subsidy. They will only go if there is infrastructure develpment. What efforts are you making to develop infrastructure in the country? I give the figures. In coal, the increase in production is marginal. In respect of crude oil, in fact, the production has come down to 333 lakh tonnes. Obviously, we will have to have more petrol products if our own production is declining. In the case of electricity, in the first six months of 1998-99, there was an increase of 8 per cent over the last year. At the moment, we are producing 321 billion kilowatts of electricity. But if you compare the same figures on year to year basis, it shows a decline in generation of 9 per cent in August 1998 and 5 per cent in September 1998. Most of the people who like to put up large, medium or small industries, nowadays, just don't like to depend on the supply of power from the State. As a result, they have to put their own generators just to make sure that the supply of power is continuous. I appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to allot sufficient funds for development of infrastructure in the country, particularly power. I am not going to roads or airways. There is an unlimited need of funds for these sectors also. But I know that the Finance Minister has limitation of resources. I am going to suggest how these resources can come. Of course, the hon. Finance Minister has got a very unpleasant task of mobilisation of resources also. The main source of mobilisation of resources is from direct taxes and indirect taxes. I come to the direct taxes first. I will just take a few minutes on this point. The direct taxes have increased by 22.5 per cent as compared to the last year.

It has happened not because year machinery has become efficient. Let me make it clear that it has happened because you have the right policies, because your predecessor, Mr. Chidambaram, has brought it down to 30 per cent and 35 per cent for individuals and for corporations, and which you have maintained. It has become uneconomical for people not to pay taxes. Madam, people told me that outside the country, people are more law-abiding. I also thought, probably, they are. But what I found in different developed countries is, they are law-abiding, not on their own. It is simply not because of the nature of an individual. They are law-abiding because the policies of their Government are such, the implementing agencies are such that people don't get a chance to go against the law. I will just give one example. People drive cars. People say, here they go zigzag, but in foreign countries, people go in one lane because there is a dividing line; they can't go zigzag even if they want to go. It is because there is a procedure, and they are following it. Implementation of law if done in such a way that the public cannot go against the law. They are practical laws. If you put a tax limit of 16 per cent, naturally, it will attract people. It has been attracting them during all these years. When you have brought it down to a reasonable levels naturally people are willing to pay more taxes. It is no more, as I said, economical for them not go pay taxes. At this stage, I draw the attention of the hon. Finance Minister, through you, Madam, towards changing the thinking of this Department. When hon. V.P. Singh was the Finance Minister, he started a Raid Department. He was known as a Raiding Minister, and the Department was known as Raider. In today's globalisation, in today's liberalisation, when we have made so many changes, I want to-go. So, it is not that they want to follow the law. Department and also to change that. Why do you

need a Department like that? I am amazed to understand from some friends that there is a separate Raid Department. Raiding has to be done against a specific information; I mean, there is no need to make a rule, but there should be an exception. You have a Department whose people have to find out a reason for their own survival, and for that reason, they have to carry out their survey raids, or, if they have nothing else to do, they will go to a particular industry, they will go to doctors, they will go to engineers, they will go to a particular market. Why do you need a Department like that? If it is not done under the rules, and if it is done only in a very specific case, then the same staff who is looking after the direct taxes can also handle this situation ...*(intrruptions)*... You see, valuation, etc. is again a subject-matter which requires to be gone into

details. The hon. Member has raised the issue of valuation. Of course, once a raiding party comes, they will do everything which suits them

5.00 P.M.

But after four years or five years or ten years, everything come to a big zero.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Bagrodia, will you please conclude now?

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Madam, just now my sister told you that I was a young new speaker.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE) It is okay, Mr. Bagrodia, that you are quite young in the House and this is your maiden speech. I do agree. But we have to consider many Bills today.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Madam, after two sessions, at the fag end of this session I am speaking for the first time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): There are many Bills before us, which have to be passed today. It is 5 O'clock now. I would like to take the sense of the House.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Madam, I am not insisting on it. I will do what you tell me.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Madam, what I find from the List of Business is that there are three Bills, apart from the two Appropriation bills, has been passed and the other is under consideration. Now, two more Financial Bills have come, the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill and the Customs (Amendment) Bill. There are already three Bills slated for discussion, the Coffee (Amendment) Bill, the Explosive Substances (Amendment) Bill and the North-Eastern Council (Amendment) Bill. All these three Bills have been passed by the Lok Sabha and they have been referred to this House. I am afraid, within the time which is available to us, we cannot dispose of all these Bills. Therefore, my suggestion to the Government is this. So far as the Financial Bills are concerned, there are complusions. We shall have to pass them. In addition to that, we are told in the Order Paper that two statements are to be made by the Ministers. Therefore, my submission to the House, through you, Madam, is this. Let the General Appropriation Bill, the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill and the Customs (Amendment) Bill be considered by the House. After that, I think we should disperse because we cannot sit every day late in the night and pass the Bills. In fact, we were waiting for the Bills to come and for two weeks we didn't have any Government bill to be considered. In this connection, I would line to draw the attention of the. Government to the Explosive Substances (Amendment) Bill which is to be passed. If we cannot consider it, I appeal to the Government not to resort to the Ordinance because we have the intention of getting it examined. Therefore, in the interregnum period the Government should not take the Ordinance route to put it into effect. If the hon. Minister can

come and agree, we can send it to a Select Committee of the House and this could be considered by it. These are my suggestions to the Government. If the Government can respond to them, we will appreciate it.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU (West Bengal): Madam, we totally endorse what Mr. Pranab Mukherjee has stated. These are very important Bills. In fact, we, from the opposition, have extended total co-operation to the Government on the discussions on legislative business. If there had been some better planning on the part of the Government, perhaps, many of these things could have been properly discussed and dealt with. In the absence of that, we request not to resort to the Ordinance route. The experience of Prasar Bharati is there in our mind. Therefore, we have" a little apprehension that the Government may indiscriminately resort to the Ordinance route. That should not be done in the best spirit of parliamentary democracy. Wherever we can refer it to a Select Committee, we should do that.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, what I am suggesting is this. I don't disagree. But the point is that we have a compulsion to pass the Appropriation Bills. I am ready to that extent. What is the use of passing the Customs (Amendment) Bill and the Income Tax (Amendment) Bill?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: They are money Bills. They should be passed. if they are not passed, after 14 days, they will be automatically passed.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, let us pass these three Bills because we have a compulsion. The other Bills can be slated for the next session. Suddenly the Government has become so overactive that we feel that it is beyond our capacity to all in line with the Government. *(Interruptions)*... Let us pass these things, Madam. But kindly find time. Madam, how long are we going to sit? We have to arrange our speeches accordingly. How long are we going to sit?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Shri Pranab Mukherjee has made a suggestion. Mr. Minister, would you like to respond to the suggestion of Shri Pranab Mukherjee? Mukherjee has made a suggestion. Mr. Minister, would you like to respond to the suggestion of Shri Pranab Mukherjee?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): Yes, Madam. I welcome the suggestion made by Shri Pranab Mukherjee in regard to the Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, the Customs (Amendment) Bill and the Income-Tax (Second Amendment) Bill. I will be very grateful if the House agrees to consider these three Bills and return them today. So far as the Explosive Substances (Amendment) Bill is concerned, I will convey the feelings of the hon. Members to the hon. Home Minister. He is coming. He will respond to it. In the meanwhile, we can proceed with the discussion.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: How long?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): You have to decide that.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: I would like to submit one more thing before the two Money Bills come up for consideration. They are of very routine nature. In the other House, they were passed in a matter of seven minutes.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Madam, we would like to sit only up to 6 o'clock.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Yes, we would like to sit up to 6 o'clock, not beyond that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Is this the sense of the House that the House will sit up to

6 O clock? In that case, I would request the hon. Members to be very brief. Mr. Bagrodia.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Madam, I can sense the feeling of the House and your desire. So I am not going to take a very long time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): This is not my desire. This is the desire of the House. I am perpared to sit here. I have no problem.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Madam, I am going to take your advice very seriously. I am not going to take a very long time. Instead of elaborating on the points, I will just read them out quickly.

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): Madam, I have to introduce a Bill.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Let him finish. Then you can introduce your Bill.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Madam, I understand that Shri Sikander Bakht wants to introduce a Bill. It can be introduced in one minute. *(Interruptions).*

SHRI JIBON ROY (West Bengal): Madam, the Bill cannot be introduced. They have not circulated copies of the Bill to Members. We will not allow this. Let the House sit up to 10 O'clock. *(Interruptions).*

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Normally, the discussion is not suspended for introducing a Bill. That is the normal practice. Let the discussion be over. After that we shall consider it.

SHRI JIBON ROY: This Bill cannot be introduced. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Madam, it is very unfortunate. We were told yesterday very specifically that the major reason for not referring the Patent Bill to a Select Committee was that we were hard-pressed for time and that the Bill had to be passed by the Lok Sabha. But it could not be done. Without circulating the Bill- at least 48 hours' notice is needed for the introduction of a Bill-how can the Government say that they want to introduce a Bill? *(Interruptions).*

SHRI JIBON ROY: Madam, this Bill cannot be introduced. *(Interruptions).*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Jibon Roy, please sit down.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Madam, I was talking about mobilisation of resources. I have already talked about direct taxes. So far as indirect taxes are concerned, this year they have gone down by 13.9 per cent because of the reduction in industrial growth. I will draw the attention of the hon. Minister through you, Madam, that this Samadhan scheme is very confusing.

Lot of clarifications are being asked for by people. Please clarify this. I will make one or two points on price rise. The Union Government has taken the following measures.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Bagrodia, you have already taken 35 minutes. Your party has been given 34 minutes.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: I have seen the watch, with due respect to your statement, 12 minutes of my time have been taken by others.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): There are a number of Members to speak on this.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Madam, I won't take more than five minutes. Please don't include these 12 minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Please conclude now. It is too much,

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Madam, for any economy, export is a must. If we don't export, we perish. During the last six months, the trade deficit has doubled; from 2500 million US

dollars to 5000 million US dollars; and for export, again, Madam, the Finance Minister will have to take strong steps. The wrong fiscal policies will have to be changed. If required, he has to help, or, discuss with the other departments like Labour. In regard to export oriented industries we will have to have special labour laws. There is law and order problem. There is an unnecessary inter vention of the value of the rupee. According to experts, the value of the rupee should be 48 against a dollar today; but, because of unnecessary intervention, the value is maintained at Rs. 42.50. The result is, our exports are going down.

The Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

Madam, that is the reason why nobody wants to take the ECB quota. Madam, there was a Prime Minister's package for giving a boost to the economy. Have we been able to go into the details of this package? Out of that package, about ten-twelve points were there. Have we been able to implement even one point? If we don't implement the points and if we have packages only, then the economy is not going to improve. Madam, the last point is; even your own ally, the ally of the Government, Ms. Jayalalitha has expressed her worry on the state of the economy and called for a special Parliament Session to prevent disaster. I fully support her cause because it is a question of simple survival. Madam, Mr. J.D. Sacks is the Director of Harvard Institute for International Development and Mr. N. Bajpaiyee is the Director of India Programme Harvard University, U.S. They say, that after the East Asian Crisis, India must realise that steady growth requires more, but careful, financial reforms. The greatest risk to India's future financial stability....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bagrodia, I think the time of your party is over. There are two names.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Madam, just one minute. Government funding has to be reduced to achieve both macro-economic stability and rapid growth. The last point which I want to make is, there is a saying in Sanskrit that one should always speak the truth, but never the bitter truth. One Mr. Claude Smadha; the Managing Director of the World Economic Forum violated this norm when he warned at the recent Indian economic summit that unless the rigidity in the economic structure and the constraints and distortions are addressed in time, India would be hit by another fiscal crisis. I, therefore, want to warn the hon: Finance Minister simply saying thai the September month will be good, October will be good and November will be good -- now, we can say, next year will, be good-- will not solve the problem. We have to see the results. Please do something drastic and I know you can do it. You have the capacity; you have the desire, but, probably, you don't get enough support from the entire Government. For that, you have to be more firm and if you take firm steps, the economy of the country will improve, we will all thank you, and the poorest of the poor will be able to survive. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Before I call the other speakers, I must inform the House that we have already a lot of Bills and official business to be approved. Then, we have the Supplementary List of Business. We have two statements. The last speaker took more time. I would request everybody to abide by the time-limit. It is for your own benefit. This Bill has been given two hours.

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Madam, I have to make one point. Earlier, when Sarojji was in the Chair, Shri Pranab Mukherjee made certain suggestions as to how we could take up the business. Some of us endorsed his view. So fare as the Money Bills are concerned, we know there is a compulsion. We have to discuss them and pass them. But the other thing that is listed originally is the Explosive Substances (Amendment) Bill. Some of us feel that there are some serious points in regard to this Bill which could be dealt

better in a committee. The difficulty is that the Lo Sabha has already passed it. Therefore, the only route to address this is to have a Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha. We appeal to the hon. Home Minister; if he agrees, perhaps, even without a discussion, we can refer it to a Select Committee of the Rajya Sabha.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Actual ly, I had a discussion with the Leader of the House, Leader of the Opposition and Mr. Pranab Mukherjee on this issue. We will pass the Appropriation Bill, which is under consideration. We will also pass the Customs (Amendment) Bill. That is also a Money Bill. That is also a Money Bill. There is one statement on the Mem bers' Local Area Development Fund. That is important. We would like to take up that. Then, Mr. Barnala wants to lay some papers or, maybe, a statement, on the Table. Then, we also have a Govern ment Resolution. Mr. Advani is going to move a Resolution on Ministers' Allowances, Medical Treat ment, etc. Mr. Advani, is it Bill? It is just a Resolution.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): Madam, it is a Resolution because, in the case of MPs, the limit for loan, as car advance, have been increased from Rs. 50,000 to one lakh. The same thing is being provided for the Ministers.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We can pass that with a voice-vote.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: If you permit me, I - can move it right now.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Right now we can't. We can't take up that while we are discussing the Appropriation Bill. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: Madam, I was told that Mr. Pranab Mukherjee had suggested that we take up the Explosive Substances (Amendment) Bill and the other Bill which has to be considered by the House today, namely, the North-Eastem Council (Amendment) Bill, in the next Session, provided I say that we will not introduce an Ordinance now. I have no hesitation in saying that, though, I think, this too is a very simple Bill and it can be passed even today. But if there is a lack of time, if there are constraints and if there are some Members who want to reduce ten years to three years- be-cuase I saw an amendment to that effect just now— I have no objection in putting if off to the next Session. The Govern-ment has no intention of issuing an Ordinance also. So far as this Resolution is concerned, I think, the House....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: About the Explosives Bill?

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: It is only the Explosive Substances (Amendment) Bill which has been discussed and passed by the other House and it has been brought to this House as passed by the Lok Sabha. Whereas, the other one, the North-Eastern Council (Amendment) Bill, has to be passed by this house. The other House has still to pass it and that can come only in the next Session. There-fore, in so far as the second one is concerned, there is no difficulty of any kind. So far as the first one is concerned, if this House is willing to pass it, it is fine. But if this House feels that we should wait for the next Session, I can only say that we have no intention of bringing an Ordinance.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: I have one small suggestion, Madam, if the hon. Home Minister listens to me. We can assure the hon. Home Minister; if a Select Committee of this House is appointed today, we can consider it and give the Bill before the next Session. We can give him the Bill on the first day of the next Session. *(Interruptions)* It is not about the North-Eastern Council. I am talking about the Explosive Substances Bill.

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: No. I would not be fair to the other House. In the other House, I had urged them that we would like to pass it in this Session and therefore, there were suggestions that we should "refer it to the Standing Committee or we should refer it to a Select Committee. Because I suggested to them, let us discuss it and pass it; they discussed it thoroughly and passed it. Therefore. .. .*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, yesterday, we sat till 10.30 and passed the Patents Bill. The other House did not pass it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: I would have been very happy, the Government would have been very happy, to pass it today itself. But that is a different matter which relates to something that transpired among the leaders in the Speaker's Chamber. But, so far as this is concerned, all that I can say is that if the House so desires, it can be held on till the next session. The Government has no intention of issuing an ordinance on this. But if the House is willing to pass it, I would be happy.

SOME HON. MEMBERS; No, no. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU; Madam, I think it can be postponed to the next session. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think

explosives is an issue where Members would like to say something. Apart from the fact that sometimes, we have explosive situations in the House also. ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JIBON ROY: Madam, there should be no more introduction of any Bill today. ...*(Interruptions)*....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Introduction is a different thing. ...*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI L.K. ADVANI: What about the Resolution?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will first finish this, and then we will take that.

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त) : मैडम, मुझे आप बिल इंट्रोट्यूस करने की इजाजत दें या न दें वह एक अलग बात हैं लेकिन अगर इस किस्म का फैसला करना है तो

I would like to know the wish of the House.

†**وزیر صنعت" شری سکندر بخت":** میڈم۔ مجھے آپ بل انٹرو ڈیوس کرنے کی اجازت دیں یا نہ دیں وہ ایک الگ بات ہے لیکن اگر اس قسم کا فیصلہ کرنا ہے تو...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not now. When I finish the Appropriation. ...*(Interruptions)*....

SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT: When It is slated to come, because that sounds too jarring to me when hon. Members start passing on all sorts of odd remarks, there is nothing of that sort.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not odd, Sikander Bakht Saheb. They are very co-operative today. If you do that, then we won't be able to do any business. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Madam, Lok Sabha was the loser today as they could not listen to this poetry on the patents Bill.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: May I call Shri Ramdas Agarwal? रामदास जी कृपया एकदम संक्षेप में अपना भाषण करिए ।

एक माननीय सदस्य : मैडम जरूरत है क्या ?

उपसभापति : जरूरत तो नहीं हैं । एप्रोप्रिएशन पर आप क्या बोलेंगे ?

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल (राजस्थान) : महोदया, माननीय संतोष जी ने 35 मिनट तक इसी के ऊपर बोला था ।

†[Transliteration in Arabic Script.]

उपसभापति : वह रूलिंग पार्टी में नहीं है, आपोजीशन में है ...(**व्यवधान**)... वह आपोजीशन में हैं।

श्री रामदास अग्रवालः महोदया, मेरे साथ यही कठिनाई है कि जब मैं बोलने के लिए खड़ा होता हूं तो मेरा समय काट दिया जाता है और इस पूरे महीने में मुझे आज आखिरी समय बोलने का मौका मिला है। इसलिए आप जैसी आज्ञा दें, वैसे ही मैं करने को तैयार हूं।

उपसभापति : ठीक है, बोलिए।

कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे: मैडम, इनके साथ यह कठिनाई हैं कि he is in the ruling party. This is what he is saying.

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल : लेकिन मैं आपके आदेश का पालन करते हुए ...

उपसभापति : आपका शुक्रिया।

श्री रामदास अग्रवाल उपसभापति महोदया, वित्त मंत्री महोदय, ने जो सप्लीमेंटरी डिमांड्स रखी है, मैं उसका समर्थन करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूं। वैसे तो कई वर्षों से मैं देख रहा हूं कि प्रत्येक वित्त मंत्री हर वर्ष के आखिर में आते-जाते जरूर कोई सप्लीमेंटरी डिमांड्स लेकर आते हैं और हमारे वित्त मंत्री भी वही लेकर आए हैं । उसे पास कराना हमारा एक सार्वजनिक धर्म है। उसके नाते मैं इसका समर्थन कर रहा हूं। महोदया, लेकिन जब ऐसे बिल आते हैं, उस समय देश की आर्थिक परिस्थितियों के संबधं में चर्चा करने का मौका मिल जाता है। मैं इस बात को मानता हूं कि हमारे वित्त मंत्री महोदय जिस समय इस वित्त मंत्रालय को संभाल रहे थे, उस समय उन्हें विरासत में बहुत कुछ मिला और उस विरासत के परिणामस्वरूप देश के औद्योगिक क्षेत्र में, आर्थिक क्षेत्र में रीसैशन की भावना और रीसैशन का दौर शुरू हो चुका था। आज उसके परिणाम हमको स्पष्ट रूप रहें हैं। न केवल हमारा देश बल्कि दुनिया के और भी बहुत सारे विकसित राष्ट्रों ने भी इस समस्या का सामना किया है।

जापान थाईलैण्ड, इण्डोनेशिया और साउथ अफ्रीका आदि कंट्रीज भी है जिन्होनें अपने क्रेसीज को इतना डीवेल्यू कर लिया था जिसके परिणामस्वरूप आज हमें अपने निर्यात व्यापार में कई प्रकार की कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ रहा है जैसा अभी भी संतोष बगड़ोदिया ने भी कहा। लेकिन मैं अपने वित्त मंत्री जी को इस बात के लिए बधाई देना चाहता हूं कि बड़ी कठिन परिस्थितियों में, विकट विरासत को प्राप्त करने के बाद भी उन्होनें देश के आर्थिक ढांचे को नियंत्रण में रखा। हम समझते थे कि पोकरण में अणु-परीक्षण के पश्चात,दुनिया के अनेक राष्ट्र हम पर कई प्रकार के आर्थिक प्रतिबंध लगायेंगे । इसकी चिंता हमने इस सदन में भी की थी कि इस आर्थिक प्रबंध का क्या असर होगा ? वित्त मंत्री जी और प्रधान मंत्री जी ने देश को आश्वासन दिया था कि हमने अपने देश की आंतरिक अर्थव्यवस्था को इतनी मजबूत, मानकर चलते हैं कि इन सारी परिस्थितियों का, दुनिया की लोगों के दबावों का असर इस देश पर कम से कम होगा, इस बात का प्रयास किया जाए। मैं आज इस बात को आपके सामने रखना चाहता हूं कि इस देश ने अपनी आंतरिक शक्ति के बूते पर इन सारी चुनौतियों को स्वीकार करके अपने कदम आगे बढ़ाऐ । इसका अर्थ यह नहीं है कि सब कुछ ठीक चल रहा है। हमेशा हम इस बात को बड़े ध्यान से कहते है कि हमें अपने देश के विकास के लिए विदेशी पूंजी चाहिए। केवल दो-तीन प्वाइंट्स पर बात करके मैं अपना कथन समाप्त करना चाहता हूं। मै यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि इस देश में उदारीकरण की नीति आरम्भ में मनमोहन सिंह जी के समय से एक लाख दस हजार करोड रू. एमोयूज बने हैं, एमोयूज बनने के बाद इस देश के अंदर उद्योग लगाने के लिए कितने रूपए का इन्वेस्टमेंट धरातल पर हुआ। अगर हम इसका अंदाजा लगाएंगे तो हमें वास्तविकता का पता लग जायेगा। हम इस बात को अच्छी तरह से जानतें हैं और देख रहें हैं कि हमारे एमोयूज़ केवल कागज पर रह गये हैं। न तो कोई नए उद्योग लग पाएं और न ही पैसा आ पाया। लेकिन एक अलमिंग स्थिति बन रही हैं। अभी तीन दिन पहले ही मैनें अखबार में पढ़ा कि टाटा समूह ने अपने पूरे के पूरे सीमेंट उद्योग को विदेशी कंपनी को बेचने का निर्णय कर लिया है। इसी प्रकार से भारत की अनेक कंपनियों खरीदी जा चुकी हैं और आगे भी शायद खरीदी जाएगी। इसका अर्थ केवल मैनेजमेंट को बदलना होगा (...समय की घंटी...) मैडम, मैं ज्यादा समय नहीं लुंगा । केवल इतना ही कहना चाहूंगा कि आज वित्त मंत्री जी को इस बात को ध्यान में रखना पड़ेगा कि भारत की कम्पनीज़ दूसरे लोग खरीदकर यहां पर इन्वेस्टमेंट न करें बल्कि नई कंपनी या नए क्षेत्र का उद्योग लगांए। इससे देश का वास्तविक विकास होगा। पुरानी कंपनियां खरीदी जाएंगी और बेची जायेंगी तो इससे देश का विकास नहीं होगा।

इस समय हमारी जो स्थिति बनी है इसमें निर्यात का बहुत बड़ा हिस्सा हैं। जो हमारा निर्यात घटता जा रहा है

वह आज माइनस स्थिति में आ गया है । मैं वित्त मंत्री जी और व्यापार मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूं कि देश का निर्यात-व्यापार किस तरह से बढे, इसके बारे में आप चिंता कर रहे हैं, आपको और भी अधिक चिंता करनी पड़ेगी । आज दुनिया के अन्य राष्ट्रों में डीवैल्यूशन हो चुका है । कहीं ऐसी स्थिति न बने कि हमको भी अपने रूपए का डीवैल्यूएशन करना पड़े ।

तीसरी बात मैं वित्त मंत्री को बधाई के साथ कहना चाहता हूं कि इन्होनें इंडिया रिसर्जन बान्ड से जो चार बिलियन डालर इकट्ठा किया है ।

हम चाहते हैं कि वह देश को यह बतायें कि वह चार बिलियन डालर को, इस देश के इन्स्फरास्ट्रक्चर को डेवलप करने के लिए किस तरह से खर्च करना चाहेंगे वरना यह कर्जा हमारे ऊपर एक बहुत बड़ा बोझ बनकर रह जाएगा । इन शब्दों के साथ मैं यह निवेदन करता हूं कि हमारे देश के आर्थिक ढांचे को ठीक करने के लिए वित्त मंत्री मजबूती से आगे बढें और इस बारे में वह जो कदम उठाना चाहते हैं उनको जनता के सामने रखें । अगर वे ऐसा करते हैं तो शायद देश की आंतरिक स्थिति मजबूत होगी, देश का आर्थिक विकास होगा । इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इसका समर्थन करता हूं और जल्द बाजी में अपनी बात से समाप्त करता हूं । धन्यवाद ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Biplab Dasgupta—he is not here. Mr. Jibon Roy, are you going to speak? ....*Interruptions)*...You have just three minutes to speak. ...*{Interruptions)*...

SHRI JIBON ROY: Madam, the Congress Party and the Ruling Party are now under a single umbrella, so far as the economic part is concerned, therefore, we are the only Opposition now.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Whether you are in the Opposition or in the Ruling Party, this rule applies to you too—same umbrella. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU (Karnataka): I will not take much time. ...*(Interruptions)*... My hon. friend, Jibon Roy is unhappy because the Congress Party refused to take his issue-based support. ..*(Interruptions)*... So, he is unhappy.. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JIBON ROY: I am very much happly because so long as they remain merged, we will be the real Opposition. ... *(Interruptions)*...I am very much happy.

प्रो. विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा (दिल्ली) : यह एम्बरैला तब लगाते हैं जब रूस में बारिस होती है । सभी ये अम्बरैला लगाते हैं ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Jibon Roy, rules apply to everyone uniformly and without discrimination. These are the universal rules which ever umbrella you have. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JIBON ROY: Madam, I request you to be a little bit generous to me. ...*Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But, not today. ...*(Interruptions)...!* am sorry. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI JIBON ROY: Madam, when the discussion took place on economic situation, I raised some questions. At that time, the hon. Finance Minister directed all the fire to this side because he also thin that we are the only Opposition. He did not reply to the questions, rather, he said that his

philosophical platfrom is different from ours. I agree that he is on a different philosophical platform. But, he did not answer the points raised by us. The Congress Party ruled this country for a long time. They are also on a diferent philosophical platform. But, still they pursued some good policies and there was a national consensus on them. When they talked about growth, they talked absout equity also. When they talked about *equity* and growth, they talked about self-reliance also. They pursued the policy of equity to such an extent that the poor people were left with 30 per cent or 40 per cent in the total economic system. Till the 7th Plan, they had surrendered the policy of self-reliance. I would like to know whether this Government is following the policy of equity, or whether it is following the policy of economic growth alone. The reason for my saying so is that without equity, growth only means a golden pot made a stones. You

cannot go ahead without equity so far as our under-developed country is concerned. As far as the economic sitaution is concerned, people are taling absout recession. They were talking about it earlier also. I would like to know whether there had been any boom since the trime this reform process was undertaken. It was only in 1994-95 and 1995-96 when there was an abnormal growth in capital goods industry and also in the consumer durables. But, where is the real growth? Why I am calling it an abnormal growth is because ther was 25% growth in consumer durables.

But, correspondingly, the growth in the basic industry in 1995-96 was only five per cent. Similarly, in the next year i.e., last year, the growth rate of the basic industry was not commensurate with the growth rate of the capital industry. That was a kind of lopsided, abnormal and deformed growth rate. Sometimes, our capital goods industry was growing, but the basic goods sector did not move. It is because you are importing components, getting them assembled and selling. Ultimately, it is coming on record that growth is taking place. It is an abnormal growth. The moment the import has gone down, the rate of growth has gone down, and the export also has gone down. Both are linked together. Therefore, there was no boom at all since the passage of reforms, (time-bells) Madam, I have started just now.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know.

SHRI JIBON ROY: The point is, you cannot have it unless you achieve growth in agriculture. Unless there is a sustained growth in agriculture, there cannot be a growth in industry. A growth in agriculture means, more demand and more market. But there also, there was a decline; and still, there is a decline. Last year, it was negative growth of 3 per cent.

The other day, hon. leader, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, was saying that all these years, there was good rain. But, still, why there is a lesser growth in agriculture and foodgrains? Last year, production of foodgrains was less by 5 millionr tonnes compared to the previous year. Have you found you? Have you reviewed? I am not going into the philosophical platform. What you are pursuing? You have claimed that first generation reform is taken over by the second generation under your leadership. Would you please review as to what had happened? What was wrong with the first generation? I am not raising any question. Fortunately, or, unfortunately, one gentleman got a Nobel prize in economics this year and he is from our country. He mentioned two aspects. He is not in the Left. He follows the market economic as you follow policv. He said,

"In an underdeveloped country, without going in for equity-distribution, or, without land reforms, no kind of reform or liberalisation can work or act." I can give examples from my own state and our country. During the last twenty-five years, there has been an injustice to West Bengal, so far as industrialisation is concerned. We were complaining again and again. Still, West Bengal is maintaining the highest rate of growth and highest yield per hectare so far as agricultural production is concerned, so far as food production is concerned; in fact, il is better than Punjab, though Punjab is having irrigated land. It is because, we have done land reforms. Madam, I could wish liberalisation *zindabad,* cheers to liberalisation policy and also cheers to the second generation reforms but before that I want to know from the hon. Minister, do you think we will be able to implement the liberalisation and the second generation process without land reforms? Our Nobel laureate, Mr. sen, also said that. 1 wish to know from the hon. Minister and the

great economists sitting on this side or that side—I am a student, I have no knowledge, as far as economics is concerned—anywhere in the world has economic reforms progressed, or, could go ahead without land reforms? Therefore, you are not pursuing the liberalisation alone; you are not pursuing classical capitalism alone; you are pursuing a combination of capitalism and feudalism, under the umbrella of other countries. Madam, I would not take much time. I am revealing some figures about human development *(time-bell rings)* I will take only three minutes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. The time alloted to your party is over. I am sorry. I am very strict.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Madam, okay, give me one minute.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: we are not bargaining here. So, please, take your seat.

SHRI JIBON ROY: All right. If you do not wish, I will adhere to what you say-

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, finish in one minute.

SHRI JIBON ROY: Madam, I want to know from the hon. Minister as to what is happening there. Employnaent rate is declining, rate of regularisation is falling, price index is increasing, and, last year, there was a decline in foodgrain production also, by 5 million, tones. Also, there was a decline in the offtake from the PDS by 25 per cent. You can realise what is happening to the poor. This is reflected in the Human Development Report, 1998. *(Interruptions)* If you want me to sit down, I will sit down. That report says that so far as the HDI (Human Development India) is concerned, in 1991, India's rank was 121. Now, it is 139. Despite liberalisation we have come down to 139. Here, I would like to give figures in respect of two countries, that is, Iraq and Cuba. Iraq, which is now lighting the economic sanctions, which has not surrendered, by accepting the patents Bill, by accepting liberalisation, stands at 127th position. Despite a more offensive and aggresive posture, their rank is 127. Cuba's rank is 85; Iraq's rank is 127*:* and our rank is 139. So, which should go ahead—the policy of surrender, or, the policy of fights? Either the surrender will win or the fight will win, the united people will win.

SHRI SANATAN BISI (Orissa): Madam, I will be very brief, so far as my submission is concerned. The other day, Mr. Sen—who is an economist—stated that there should be stability for the purpose of economic growth. But, their coalition partner, Ms. Jayalalitha, has clearly stated that our country is in an economic crisis. She is their partner; we are not saying anything. She has not only criticized the Government on economic front, but she has criticized on all the fronts. She has called for economic stability. She has also given a call for development because lack of infrastructure has slowed down,. the projects. She has further stated that social secuirty is not there. Farmers are suffering, workers are suffering. She has further asserted that the economic cricis outside India—crisis in South-East and East Asia—is also affecting India. This is the statement of your own partner. She is not in the Opposition. She is one of your allies. When the allies are speaking like this,* what to speak of others. Where is stability? From where are you giving the call for stability? How will the things improve? So, as clearly stated, let us have a Parliament Session before things get worse. The other day, we were discussing about the infrastructure development. The Prime Minister and the Finance Minister were saying that unless and until they have reforms in the insurance sector, as they desire ...*(interruptions)*... But, where is the insurance sector? How will they get the infrastructure? Where is the development? They are not very much clear about all these' things. Madam, one more point I am going to make. I will not take much time. The World Bank, in its report, published in May 1997, has stated that the anti-poverty programme in India has not been cost-effective in reducing poverty.

Madam, let us see about the Poverty Alleviation Programme. The Poverty Alleviation Programme is not at all cost-effective. As far as this thing is concerned, I would like to know from the Minister, very clearly, as to what their course of action is.

Madam, the other thing I would like to say is; fearing the situation would be like in 1991, they are afraid of coming to India. As a result of which they are now demanding that there should be a cut-down in subsidies and private units. This is my "submission. I was very brief. And I would like to know about all these things from the Minister.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Bisi has finished before his allotted time.

SHRI SANTAN BISI: It was becuase you allotted me a short time.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: As far as participation in the debates in the House and maintaining the time-frame is concerned, he is the best. श्री ईश दत्त यादव । अब उन की तारीख की है तो आप भी उसी दायरे में आ जाइए ।

श्री ईश दत्त यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मैडम, वित्त मंत्री जी द्वारा प्रस्तुत विनियोग विधेयक के विरोध में मैं नहीं हूं बल्कि इस का समर्थन ही करता हूं, लेकिन अभी सत्ता पक्ष की और से भी रामदास जी अग्रवाल बोल रहें थे और उन्होनें कहा कि हम को जर्जर अर्थ-व्यवस्था मिली है और रेल मंत्री जी भी कह गए कि जर्जर रेल लाइंस मिली है तो मैं आप लोगों से पूछना चाहता हूं कि यह सब लेने की सिफारिश आप से किसी ने की थी ?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा योजना और कार्यक्रम

कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक) : भारत की जनता ने ।

श्री ईश दत्त यादव : और जब आप ने सत्ता ले ली तो 9 महीने का समय काफी होता है अर्थ-व्यवस्था को सुधारने के लिए । लेकिन इस बीच आप ने इस देश के लिए कुछ नहीं किया । मैं आप से सवाल पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या गरीबी रेखा के नीचे 9 महीने पहले जो लोग रहते थे, उन में से 0.5 प्रतिशत लोग भी गरीबी रेखा के ऊपर आए ? क्या किसान की हालत में कोई सुधार हुआ ? ...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री संघ प्रिय गौतम : आप की तनख्वाह तीन गुनी हो गयी । ...(**व्यवधान**)

श्री नीलोत्पल बसु : इस तरह से कोई बिल पास नहीं होगा ।

श्री ईश दत्त यादवः गौतम जी, आप का कोई इलाज नहीं है...

उपसभापति : गौतम जी, आप चाय पीकर आ जाइए

श्री ईश दत्त यादव : मैडम, मैं किसान की बात कर रहा था किसान की स्थिति में कोई सुधार हुआ ? मजदूर की आर्थिक स्थिति में कोई सुधार हुआ और 9 महीने पहले जब वित्त मंत्री जी ने पदभार ग्रहण किया, उस दिन से लेकर महंगाई बढ़ने के बजाय क्या घटी है ? मैडम, इस सब का एक ही जवाब होगा कि न महंगाई घटी, न गरीबी घटी, न किसान की स्थिति में कोई सुधार आया । सिर्फ पोखरन पर आप कितने दिन-जिंदा रहना चाहते हैं ? मैं मानता हूं कि पोखरन से देश का सम्मान बढ़ा है, गौरव बढ़ा है और मैं इस कार्य के लिए अपने देश के वैज्ञानिकों ए.पी.जे. अब्दुल कलाम और उन के साथियों को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं । मैडम, वे लोग हमारे देश का गौरव है जिन्होनें देश की शक्ति बढ़ाई है, देश का सम्मान बढ़ाया है । लेकिन बार-बार पोखरन की बात कहकर आप कितने दिन चल पाएंगे ? गांवों की हालत गौतम जी जानते होंगे जहां आज भी गरीब लोगों के घरों में दोनों वक्त चूल्हे नहीं जल रहें हैं । देश के कम-से-कम 40 फीसदी लोगों को दोनों टाइम का खाना नहीं मिल रहा है । आप ने 9 महीनों में क्या किया ? अगर नहीं किया तो मैं आप को हटने के लिए भी नहीं कह रहा हूं, आप शौक से वहां बैठे रहिए लेकिन महोदया, मैं आप के माध्यम से वित्त मंत्री जी और भारत सरकार से अनुरोध करना चाहूंगा कि आप इस देश की चौपट अर्थ-व्यवस्था को सुधारिए । आज किसान को उस के उत्पादन का लाभकारी मूल्य नहीं मिल रहा है । किसान जो अपने खेत में उत्पादन करता है, उस पर जो उस की लागत लगती है, उस से उसे कम पैसा मिल रहा है और इस तरह देश का किसान हतोत्साहित हो रहा है । गैंहूं पैदा करने की उसकी इच्छा नहीं रह गई है, गन्ना कम पैदा कर रहा है । देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था पर इसका जरूर प्रभाव पड़ेगा । किसान को लाभकारी मूल्य दीजिए, गरीब की ओर ध्यान दीजिए, देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था को सुधारिए ।

महोदया, अंत में आपके माध्यम से माननीय वित्त मंत्री जी से कहना चाहूंगा, वैसे मैं तो इनके प्रशंसकों में हूं, मेरे नेता भी रह रहें हैं जब इधर थे, इनके विचारों को मैं जानता भी हूं, कि यह विदेशी कंपनियों के जाल से आप बचिए वरना देश की अर्थ-व्यवस्था चौपट हो जाएगी । बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद ।

FELIVITTIONS TO SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE, ON BEING SELECTED BEST PARLIAMENTARIAN OF THE YEAR 1997.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): Madam, it is just for the information of the House. About ten minutes ago it has come in the papers also. I believe no announcement has been made yet in the. House in this regard. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, who is a senior member of this House, has been selected as 'best parliamentarian for 1997'.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Actually I was going to mention about it and congratulate him. I just received the letter from the Lok Sabha Secretariat that Mr. Pranab Mukherjee is being selected as the best Parliamentarian of 1997. It is a special honour .that for the first time a member from the Rajya Sabha has been selected.

SHRI KAPIL SIBAL (Bihar): Madam, I may venture to say that it should not be the last time.

SHRI MD. SALIM (West Bengal): Madam, it is a pride for all of us.